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ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL

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ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

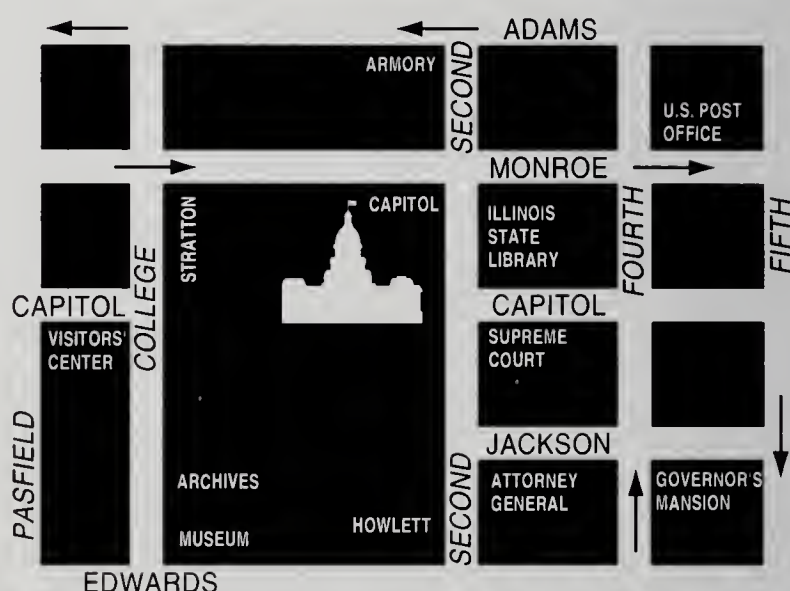


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GEORGE H. RYAN • SECRETARY OF STATE


CAPITOL COMPLEX

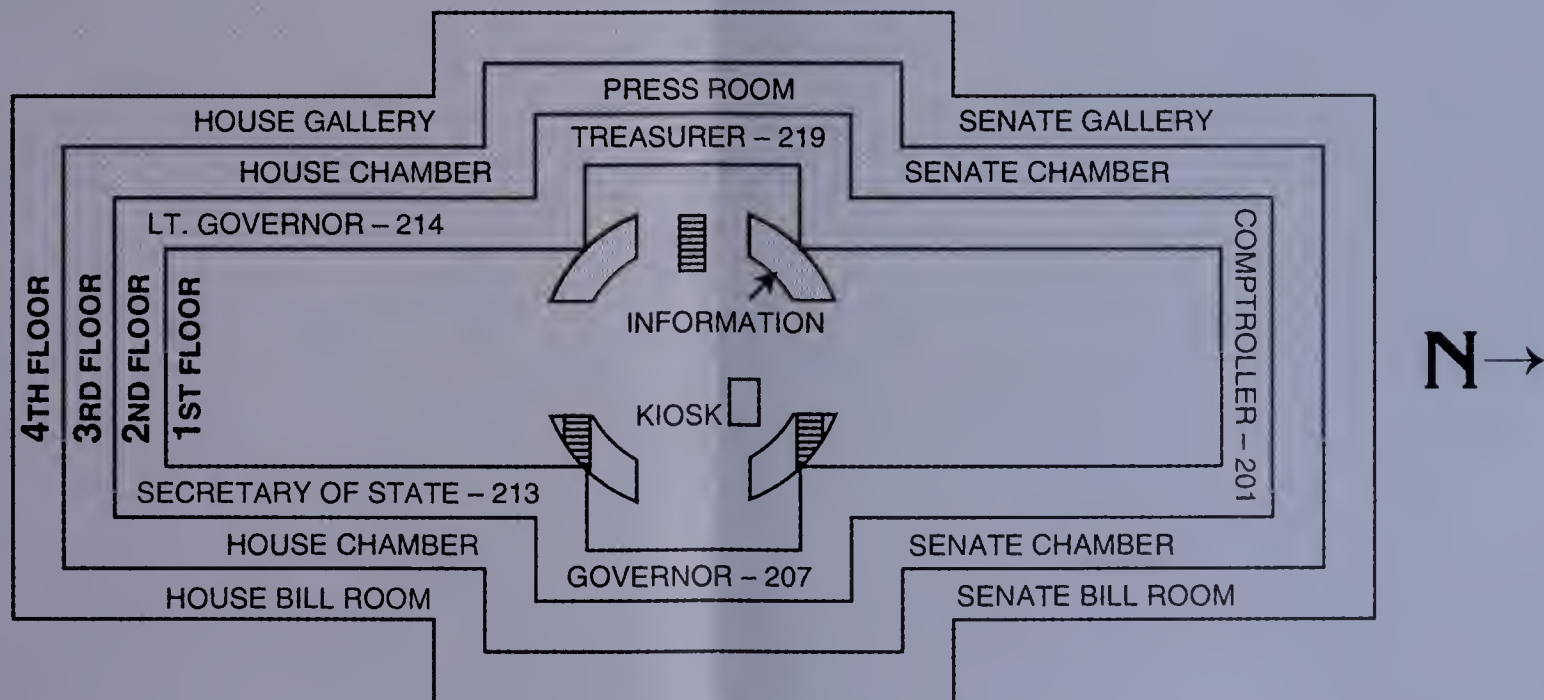
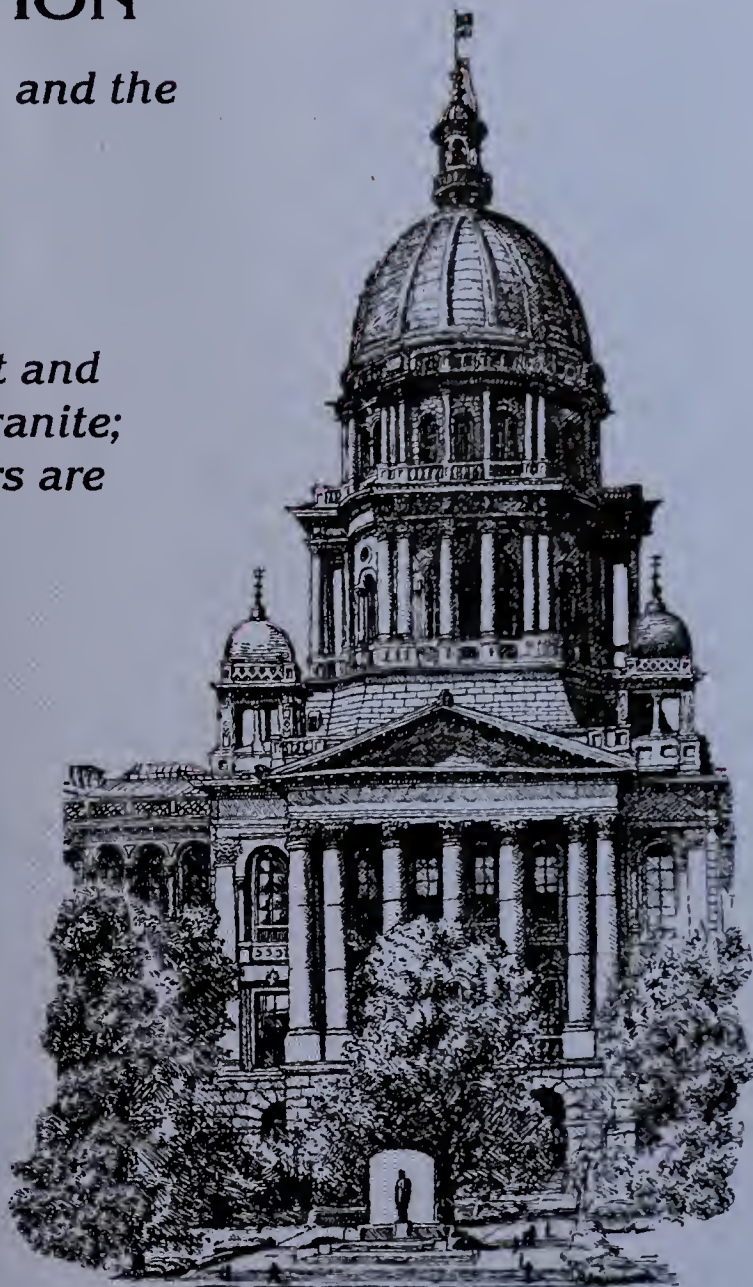
- 1855 Governor's mansion built
- 1867 Legislature authorizes 6th Capitol
- 1868 Capitol groundbreaking
- 1877 Legislature meets in Capitol
- 1888 Capitol construction completed
- 1908 Supreme Court Building dedicated



- 1923 Centennial Building completed
- 1934 State Arsenal Building burns,
replaced in 1937 by the Armory
- 1938 Archives Building completed
- 1955 Stratton Building completed
- 1972 Attorney General's Building dedi-
cated
- 1988 Capitol Centennial and end of 20
years of renovation
- 1990 Illinois State Library opened
- 1992 Centennial Building is renamed the
Michael J. Howlett Building
- 1995 Archives renamed the Margaret
Cross Norton Building

CAPITOL FACTS AND LOCATION

- The present Capitol Building is the state's sixth and the second located in Springfield.
 - Total cost: \$4,315,591
 - Design: Shape of a Latin Cross
 - Materials: Outer walls are limestone from Joliet and Lemont, IL; north and east portico pillars are granite; grand staircase, second floor columns and floors are domestic and imported multi-colored marbles.
 - Constructed of: 750,000 cu. ft. of cut stone; 20 million bricks; 1.4 million lbs. of wrought iron; and 3.4 million lbs. of cast iron.
 - Foundation: Dome foundation is 92.5 ft. in diameter. Its 17-ft. thick limestone walls are based on solid rock 25.5 ft. below the grade line. The foundation for the outer walls varies from 11 to 16 ft. below the grade line. Walls are 9 ft. thick up to the first floor.
 - Dimensions: East-West—268 ft.
North-South—379 ft.
Dome Ht.—361 ft.
Flag Ht.—405 ft.
- 



ILLINOIS STATE CAPITOL



A beautiful stained glass representation of the state seal shows archaic spelling of the word "sovereignty" by the original artist.



Early construction of the current Capitol building.



A 1930s photo of the Capitol from Second Street.



In 1944, state officials discovered the Capitol's original cornerstone, which had been lost for more than 70 years.

The story of our State Capitol building began in 1867 when the legislature authorized construction. It is the second State Capitol located in Springfield.

The original design for the building was created by Chicago architect John C. Cochrane, who formed a partnership with Alfred H. Piquenard. A railroad line from the Toledo, Wabash and Western was built to encircle the Capitol and provide easy access for building materials. The railway spur came from an existing line on Tenth Street and paralleled Monroe to the site of the future Capitol.

The project proceeded until delayed by Piquenard's death in 1876 and halted by a lack of funds in 1877. The project continued in 1884 with new funds and a fresh perspective from architect W. W. Boyington, who also designed Chicago's Water Tower building.

A quirk of fate prevented Chicago from possibly becoming Illinois' 4th Capital. The General Assembly planned to convene its Fall 1871 session there until the Great Chicago Fire occurred on October 8 and 9.

Instead, Springfield remained the Capital city, and on January 3, 1877, the General Assembly convened its first session in the new building.

The project was completed in 1888 at a cost of \$4.3 million, and a balance of \$6.35 was returned to the state treasury.



The House Chamber is located in the south wing of the third floor.



The Illinois Senate is located in the north wing of the third floor.

VISITOR INFORMATION

BUILDING HOURS:

Weekdays: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Closed: Thanksgiving,
Christmas, New Year's.

CAPITOL TOURS: Tours are given every half hour, weekdays and hourly Saturday, except noon. For information, call (217) 782-2099.

Tour Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CAPITOL HISTORY PROGRAM: Visitors' Center, one block west of Capitol; closed Sundays.

VISITOR PARKING: Visitor's Center, one block west of Capitol.

HOUSE AND SENATE VISITORS'

GALLERIES: House, fourth floor, south wing.
Senate, fourth floor, north wing.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION: Legislative Reference Bureau, 112 Capitol, first floor, south wing.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS:

Governor - 207 Capitol

Lt. Governor - 214 Capitol

Attorney General - 500 S. Second St.

Secretary of State - 213 Capitol

State Comptroller - 201 Capitol

State Treasurer - 219 Capitol

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: All elevators have control panels in Braille. Ramps are located where steps and curbs may be obstacles.

- *Parking:* Three spaces at the south entrance
- *Entrances:* South and east
- *Restrooms:* Nine restrooms

"ILLINOIS GATEWAY" (Internet Access Kiosk): Rotunda



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A message from the Secretary

WELCOME TO THE CAPITOL

Welcome to Springfield and the Illinois State Capitol. This unique building is full of history dating back to its groundbreaking in 1868.

I hope you take a few moments to appreciate its unique architecture and the men and women who have maintained it from the days of gas lighting to the age of the computer.

This is where the people who represent you come together to formulate policy and debate the ideas and laws needed to continue to make Illinois a great place to live.

As the custodian of the Capitol complex, I am proud to preserve the past and help make your visit with us enjoyable.

GEORGE H. RYAN
Secretary of State